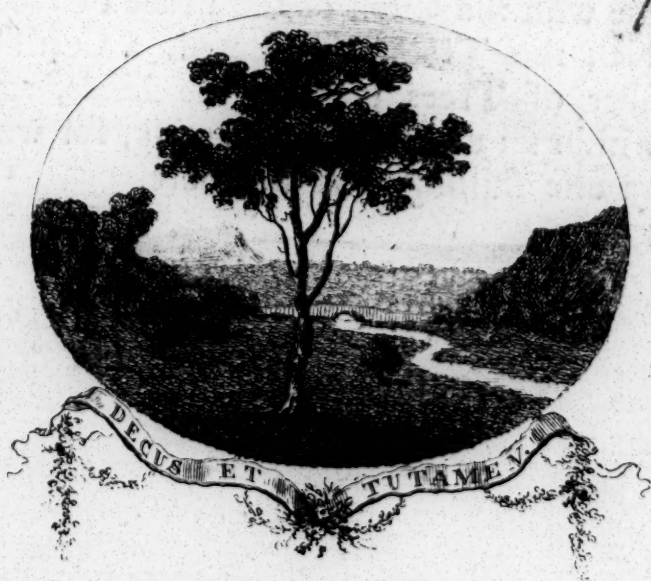


SOME
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HINTS
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PLANTING.

By a PLANTER. R



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PRINTED BY GEORGE STEVENSON.

These Hints on Planting were written for the Landholders of *Ireland*, who by a * Law lately made, are intitled to every Tree they shall Plant in their Farms.

* 5th of GEORGE 3d. Cap. 17. The Tenant must lodge with the Clerk of the Peace of the County in which the Trees are planted, a Certificate of the number of Trees planted, the kinds, age, and height, within six months after planting, for which he is to pay one shilling, and no more.



SOME HINTS
ON
PLANTING.

NO Country would be more beautiful than *Ireland*, if the Inhabitants of it were as fond of planting, and as careful of their Trees, as the People of other Countries are; for surely we have here sweet interchange of Hill and Dale, and the most beautiful pieces of Water to enliven the Landscape.

Every Planter should enclose the ground he intends to plant, with an impenetrable Fence. The best of all Fences is a Wall built with Lime and Stones, a dry Stone Wall the worst. A Ditch faced with Stones, and planted with four Years old white-thorn, or holly Quicks, and raised so high, that neither Sheep nor Horses may get over it, is an excellent Fence.

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In vain do we plant Trees, if Cattle can get into our young Plantations, or even into our full grown Woods, for tho' they may not bark old Trees, yet they will rub against them, and leave an Oily matter on their Stems, that will prevent their growing well.

The Planter should not suffer Rabbits to get amongst his young Trees, for they will bark every one they can get at; the most effectual way of destroying them is by laying parsley poison'd with Arsenick amongst the Trees, when the ground is covered with Snow.

Nor should the Planter suffer any Rooks or Magpies to settle amongst his Trees, for they will break the leading shoots, and the Trees will be forked. Where Sallows will grow, the Planter should drive tall sets of them, in the Top of the Ditch, net-wise, and they will soon form a strong Fence, and shelter the Plantation. If the ground be too dry for Sallows, cuttings of Elder may be put in, and Broom and Furze-seed sown amongst the cuttings.

I shall not recommend the sowing of Acorns, the Seeds of Trees, or Nuts, where they are to remain, for our Soil is so much inclined to Grass, that unless great Care be taken, to weed the young Plants constantly, this method seldom answers; and in large Plantations, it is impossible to do it effectually, for Oaks make but very little progress during the first three Years, and therefore require much weeding, but their Roots strike down to a very great depth; I have measured the Roots of four Years old Oaks that were above four Feet long.

Another great objection to the sowing of Acorns, &c, in open Ground, is that Rats, Mice, and other Vermin will devour the greatest part of them. I would therefore plant out three Years old Trees from the Seed-bed, taken up carefully with all their Roots. I would place the young Plants almost Horizontally in the Ground, and I would then cut off their Heads close to the Ground.

Every

Every Planter should have large Nurseries, made in the lightest, Sandiest Soil he has, from whence he may plant out his Trees immediately, that their Roots may not be dried in the removal, but if he has not Trees enough of his own, he must get what he wants from some Nursery in his Neighbourhood, where the Soil is like the Ground he intends to Plant; he ought not to get any Trees from Nurseries near great Cities, for they are raised there, in Dunghills, and the Air is much warmer there than in the Country.

The Seeds of Arbutus's and other tender Plants should be Sown in Boxes, that may be removed from place to place, filled to within eight Inches of the Top, with Virgin Earth, then lay about three Inches of Rabbit Sand, or Turf Mould, over this put about two Inches of rich light Earth, on this sow the Seeds, but not too thick, sift Earth over the Seeds, and cover the Boxes with Nets to keep Birds off.

If the Ground intended to be planted
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is covered with Shrubs, such as Hazel, Holly, or Black Thorn, the Planter should make large Holes between the Shrubs, at about fifteen Feet from each other,; if this be done some Months before planting, so much the better, that the Sun and Air may Fertilize the Soil; and the Holes should be made much larger than the Roots, that the young shoots may have an easy passage thro' loose Mould.

If the Trees are tall, I would cut them down close to the Ground, else they will be shook by the Wind, and they will not Thrive; this is one reason why so many new-planted Trees fail, and tho' it may appear odd to advise the cutting down a tall, well grown Plant, yet it is necessary, for as the Roots have been much bruised, and hurt by taking the Tree up, it is impossible for those that remain, to nourish the same Body, and therefore we generally see removed Trees dead at Top, and Hide-bound, in which State they can never grow to Timber; but

if they are cut down, strong, vigorous Shoots will spring up, which in Ten Years, will be much larger than the Trees would be if left standing for twenty Years, and their Bark will be as clean and sappy, as if they had Grown there from the Seed: and the Planter will save much, by not being obliged to Bank them, or fix their Heads to Stakes, to prevent their being shook. I have measured the first Years Shoots from Trees, that were cut down when planted, that have exceeded four Feet, but great care must be taken the first Year, that Grass, or Weeds do not cover the Shoots: Oaks, Elms, Chesnuts, Sycamores, and Ash, do best after being cut down, Beech not quite so well.

The branches of the Shrubs that interfere with the young Shoots, or shade them, must be cut off, if this be done, the Shrubs will greatly promote the Growth of the young Shoots. I do not find that Trees grow any where so well, as amongst Shrubs, nor are any Trees so clean skin'd, this may ap-

appear extraordinary to a young Planter, who may naturally think, that the Shrubs will draw too much Nourishment from the Forest Trees, but the great Creator of all things, has wisely Scatter'd the food of each Plant over the surface of the Earth, so that many Trees of different kinds will grow well on an Acre of ground, when the same number of one kind would be starved there for want of food. Every Gardener knows that a Peach Tree will not thrive, if it be planted where an old Peach Tree formerly grew, tho' a Pear Tree or a Cherry Tree may grow very well there.

The Planter should visit his Plantation often, and when he sees a Tree dead at top, or hide-bound, he should cut it down as close as possible to the Ground, and where many shoots spring from the same Root, all should be cut off but the strongest, and the dead wood of the old stock cut close to the shoot. The Planter should not suffer Ivy to grow round his Trees, it spoils the Bark,
and

and cramps the Tree in its growth.

The less Forest Trees are Pruned, the better, particularly Pines and Firs. I never Prune mine, except when the Stem is forked; in that case, I leave the best Shoot, and cut off the others close to the Stem, but I leave every Side-branch that is not too strong, to draw the Roots, which makes them strike more, and consequently the Stem grows larger; the best Soil for Trees, is where Hazel grows well. I do not lay so great a stress on the richness of Ground for Trees as Gardeners commonly do, for I have observed most Trees grow well in shelter'd places, even on a Rock. At *Killarney*, Oaks, Ash, Arbutus's, &c. &c. grow to a great Size, on Rocks of Lime-stone and Free-stone, where the Eye can scarce discover a particle of Earth; I saw Millions of Arbutus's there that were above twenty Feet high, in great Beauty and Vigor, growing amongst Rocks, in barren Ground. I measured a Yew there, which had grown in the Joint of an immense Free-stone,
and

and had cleft it in two, the Stem of which was above eleven Feet round, tho' the top of the Rock was above seven Feet from the ground, which was a poor barren Soil.

A Holly in *Ennisfallen* was eight Feet four Inches round; the Yew in *Muck-rass-Abbey*, is six Feet six Inches round, the Stem fifteen Feet high; and I measured a Juniper in a small rocky Island, in that delightful Lake, which was above five Feet three Inches round.

The famous *Arbutus* at General *Cunningham's* at *Mount-Kennedy*, in the County of *Wicklow*, measured thirteen Feet nine inches round, at one Foot above the ground. I have had Trees growing very well in a seemingly barren spot, where many were planted together, which shelter'd each other, while those I planted in single Rows in the rich Earth of an old Church-yard, have failed; from hence I think it is very clear, that shelter is the principal thing to be attended to in Planting; but tho' I am so great a Friend to shelter, yet I much

dislike seeing Trees too near each other, for their Branches interfere and gall each other, or their Stems are drawn up to bare Poles; no inanimated object I think is so beautiful as a large branching Oak with a fine Stem: For this reason every Spring when the Air begins to grow warm, I clear away any Shrubs or bad Trees that grow too near good ones; this is the proper time for thinning Plantations or Woods, for Trees most sensibly feel the alteration from Heat to Cold, and are much injured by it, I have seen many fine Trees die by degrees, after their Companions had been cut down the beginning of Winter, which exposed them too much to the Cold; if Trees are properly thin'd, even the despised Scotch Fir, will make a beautiful Appearance; but as the Branches of Pines and Firs turn from deciduous Trees, the Planter should allow them a large Space to grow in.

Strong-rooted Trees, such as Oak or Walnuts will grow well in Clay, and Silver-Fir, and Balm of Gilead-Fir, but
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Weymouth Pines, and Spruce-Firs, flourish in a light Soil; nay, I have seen them grow well in a Rabbit-Sand; but Scotch-Firs are never out of place, they flourish in every Soil, and in every Climate, from the sandy Plains of *Hesse-Darmstadt*, to the craggy Mountains of *North-Britain*; and therefore this convenient Tree may be planted in our Bogs or Mountains, and will form a beautiful covering for the Tops of our highest Hills: In this situation I doubt not, they will in Time, grow to as good Timber as the produce of *Norway* or *Sweden*. We are prejudiced against the Fir-Timber of this Kingdom, because what we have cut here, soon decays, not considering that even our Oak, (certainly the best in World) if it be cut before its Time, soon rots and decays. Our Fir-Trees have hitherto been planted in Groves, in rich Ground, where they grow fast, are of course soft and spongy, and soon come to a large size, which tempts their Owners to cut them down, before they have had Time to

acquire Solidity; but if Firs or Pines were planted in poor Land, and were suffer'd to stand to a proper Age, and if they were steep'd in Water two or three Months, or stoved after being cut down, I doubt not, that our Fir would prove a lasting Timber. This should now be attended to, as Fir-Timber becomes dearer every Year in the Northern Countries.

I would not plant out any of the Fir or Pine tribe, that are above four Years old, for I have always observed that they of all Trees, are the fondest of their native Soil, and are most check'd by being removed. The Stone-Pine will scarce bear being moved, even at two Years old, or having its Roots touched by the Knife, the Seeds of it therefore, should be Sown in Pots, out of which the Roots may be easily taken untouched, when it is old enough to be planted out. As this Tree grows on the *Alps*, in a much colder Climate than ours, it should be propagated here.

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The Weymouth Pine grows fast, is very straight, and consequently fit for the Masts of Ships. I bought some of them from the Seed-bed, and contrary to the Opinion of the knowing Ones, I planted some where they were to remain, in a light dry Soil, amongst Hazel bushes; the others I planted in two Nurseries in walled Gardens, the one a Clayish Soil, well mixed with Sea-sand, the other a dry Gravelly Soil; I have lost about one Third of those that were planted in the Clay, and about one Fourth of those that were put in the gravelly Nursery; not one of the Plants I put amongst the Hazels have failed; they are much healthier, and have made better Shoots than those in the Nurseries, which were constantly dug about, and kept clear of Weeds, but the Earth was not stirr'd about those that were planted out, I only cut the Grass and Weeds near them, and trim'd the Hazel that shaded them too much; from hence and other observations, I infer that the digging the Earth near Pines

or Firs, is very injurious to them, for tho' the Labourers may be careful, yet they will often cut some of their Side-roots, which will prevent their thriving; and I am clearly of the same Opinion as to all other Forest-Trees, for I think that the Grass will keep their Roots Cool and Moist in Summer, and Warm in Winter, and it is natural to them; for why do Trees grow so well in Woods, and appear so clean Barked, but that Bushes, Grass and Weeds protect them from all injuries, as well as from Heat and Cold. I never dig about my Forest-Trees, I Plant them carefully, Fence them well, and so leave them to Nature, and I have Reason to think I have done well.

Sycamore will grow better than any other deciduous Tree, in exposed places, or near the Sea, in any kind of Soil, and they are every Day becoming more valuable, as our Linen Manufacture extends.

The Larix grows fast in light ground, even on a Mountain, and the Timber of
it

it is excellent for House-building, as it will not soon take fire or blaze.

English Elms are so easily thrown down by high Winds, that I am not very fond of planting them, except in the face of Ditches, along with the Quicks, and they should be cut down at planting; if they are grafted, or budded on the Irish Elm, they will withstand the force of any Storm.

Chestnut Trees intended for bearing, should be Grafted or Budded.

Most kinds of Trees, and Shrubs will grow from cuttings, if they are put in shelter'd places, at a proper Season; cuttings of tender Plants, should be put in a Stove, or covered with Bell-Glasses, so that no Air may get at them for six Weeks, or until they have put out Roots.

The Admirers of tender Foreign Plants, should have Hot-houses on purpose for them, and not place them amongst their Pine Plants, or Melons: for as many of them are Poisonous, it is impossible to say how far the Farina
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of their Blossoms may affect the Pine-Apples or Melons that are near them. It is very certain that the Farina of Cucumbers, will spoil the flavour of Melons that grow near them; Gardeners should be careful what Trees or Plants they put amongst Fruit-Trees, or Plants for the Kitchen use.

Trees that bear bad Fruit, should not be suffer'd to grow amongst good ones.

Tho' Arbutus's, Myrtles, and some other tender Plants, grow very well near the Sea, every where in this Kingdom, yet they do not thrive so well in the Inland parts; but I think if the Heads of such Plants were Watered with Salt and Water, on the first appearance of a Frost, they would not suffer much; I recommend the same thing to be done, when there are Insects on Trees.

If the Ground to be planted, is cover'd with Shrubs of the Aquatic tribe, such as Sallows, Bog-Myrtle, &c. certainly Springs, or standing Waters have chill'd the Earth too much; deep Drains should be made to intercept the Springs,
and

and carry off the Water before good Trees are planted there, or Sallow-beds may be made there, which will be very profitable; of all the Sallow tribe, the Chesnut Sallow, or scented Willow is the best for Basket work, or for Hoops, as it has the toughest Twig of any Tree.

The red Sallow, and the Gorgomel, are the best for Timber, or for sheltering Plantations, as they grow fast; and here I must recommend the propagating of them for their Bark, as we are obliged to Import a vast deal every Year; and we have immense Tracts of bottoms that might be made very profitable at a small Expence, that are now of little use, by putting the cuttings of those Sallows in them, in Spring.

The black Poplar, or *Cheshire* Willow, is a quick grower, and will grow very well from cuttings; the *Carolina* Poplar, and Pine-Poplar, may be grafted or budded on the young Shoots. I am told that the Timber of Poplars and Sallows, is very good for making broad

Wheels of Carts, or Cars, as it will hold the Nails very fast, and is light.

Oaks will grow well in a swampy Soil. I have seen many thriving Oaks that were often covered every Winter, by an overflowing River, but the Timber is not so good as from a dry Soil.

If the Ground intended for a Plantation, is Grass-ground, it should be Fallow'd, and Trench-plow'd as deep as possible, which is done thus, the Plow-man is to go as deep as he can with his Plow, another Plow is to follow immediately, and to Plow as deep as possible in the same Furrow, with a higher Earth-board, which will cast the Earth over, and bury the Turf; when that is rotten, the Ground may be Plow'd again, for the deeper, the finer, and the looser the Earth is made, the better, that the young Roots of the Trees may Shoot the easier thro' it.

If the Soil be a stiff Clay, it should be Sanded, or Limed to open and warm it.

If the Ground intended to be planted, was under Corn the last Season, nothing more

more need be done than to Trench-plow it as soon as the Corn is off the Ground, and Plant it, the Stubble will open the Soil and keep the Roots warm. I would Plant the Ground thus prepared, with three or four Years old Oaks, at about twenty Feet from each other, and with all other sorts of Trees between the Oaks, but not in straight lines, for that will draw the Wind, which will chill the young Trees, and I would cut down the deciduous Trees close to the Ground. The most exposed Trees of this Plantation, should be Sycamores, and Scotch-Firs, they grow fast, and will soon shelter the others. Hazel-Nuts, Broom-feed and Liburnam-feed, may be Sown thro' the Plantation in Spring, and Junipers, Holly, and Laurels planted there, for Under-wood and cover for Game.

Autumn is the best Season for Planting Trees, when their Leaves begin to turn; we have generally such dry Weather in Spring, that it will cost immensely to Water a Large Plantation sufficiently

ently made at that Time, without which most of the new-planted Trees will fail.

The best method of planting Trees in Bogs, is with a Setting-stick, nicked at the end, for the Root to lie in, and the Planters must press the Bog well round the Tree.

Nothing is so necessary for an Orchard as shelter; certainly the Man who Plants four or five Years old Crabs or Wildings, cuts them down at planting, and grafts or inoculates on the young Shoots, from the best kinds of Fruit-Trees in his Neighbourhood, will have a better Orchard, and more Fruit in ten Years, than the Man who buys his Fruit-Trees in a rich warm Nursery, and Plants them out in a naked Field will have in twenty Years.

But tho' the Act of the 5th of George the Third, is so great an Encouragement to Planting, yet I fear this Kingdom will never be well Wooded, or Improved, whilst our Roman Catholics are precluded from taking Land for their Lives, surely this is bad Policy,
for

for their having a permanent Property, would be the best Security to Government for their good Behaviour, as they would have something to lose, now they have not any thing. The happy Man who is certain of Enjoying his Farm during his Life, will exert himself to improve, and to adorn it; but the wretched Tenant who knows the Hour he is to be turn'd out of his House, will not Improve, for fear of making it more valuable to some new Possessor. He never feels the Joy of being at Home! Which I sincerely wish every Irish-man did, whether he Prays to his Creator in English or in Latin.

THE END.



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